



# MEDIA RELEASE

## UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

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**ELLSWORTH AFB, S.D.** – A unique attraction has been added to Thunder in the Hills 2009, which is the base open house and air show, scheduled for May 30 and 31. The Air Combat Command's West Coast A-10 Thunderbolt Demonstration Team will perform here.

The team's unique mission is to demonstrate the capabilities of the A-10 Thunderbolt II, demonstrate the professional competence of U.S. Air Force personnel, positively affect USAF recruiting and retention efforts and promote community and international relations, according to their official Website at [www.acc.af.mil/aerialevents/a10west/index.asp](http://www.acc.af.mil/aerialevents/a10west/index.asp).

According to the A-10 fact sheets, these aircraft have excellent maneuverability at low air speeds and altitude, and are highly accurate weapons-delivery platforms. It can loiter near battle areas for extended periods of time and operate under 1,000-foot ceilings with 1.5-mile visibility

The aircraft can survive direct hits from armor-piercing and high explosive projectiles up to 23mm. Their self-sealing fuel cells are protected by internal and external foam. Manual systems back up their redundant hydraulic flight-control systems. This permits pilots to fly and land when hydraulic power is lost. Armament includes one 30 mm GAU-8/A seven-barrel Gatling gun; up to 16,000 pounds of mixed ordnance on eight under-wing and three under-fuselage pylon stations, including 500-lb Mark-82 and 2,000-lb Mark-84 series low/high drag bombs, incendiary cluster bombs, combined effects munitions, mine dispensing munitions, AGM-65 Maverick missiles and laser-guided/electro-optically guided bombs; infrared countermeasure flares; electronic countermeasure chaff; jammer pods; 2.75-inch rockets; illumination flares and AIM-9 Sidewinder missiles.

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The entire fact sheet may be found [www.af.mil/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=70](http://www.af.mil/factsheets/factsheet.asp?id=70).

For further information, contact 28th Bomb Wing public affairs at (605) 385-5188.